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Appln. No. 09/142,508, filed September 8, 1998, now U.S.
Patent No. 6,217,608 (incorporated herein by reference).---

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel Claims 2-23 without prejudice.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents have been furnished in parent Appln. No. 09/672,767 and grandparent Appln. No. 09/142,508, filed September 8, 1998, now USP 6,217,608.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the below-listed information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010.